

REMARKS

The final Office Action mailed April 20, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 6, 9 and 14 were rejected as being unpatentable over Veyrat. Claims 10, 17, 25 and 26 were rejected as being unpatentable over Veyrat in view of Oehman and Eberhardt. These rejections are respectfully traversed as explained below.

Independent Claims 6 and 14

Regarding independent claims 6 and 14, these claims were rejected as being unpatentable over Veyrat. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

As recited in independent claims 6 and 14, the apparatus of those claims includes a base rigidly coupled to the adapter body and the pump assembly only, and therefore not connected to the motor drive assembly. The Examiner apparently recognizes that this feature is neither taught nor suggested by Veyrat. In this regard, Applicant notes that Figure 3 of Veyrat, as well as the corresponding specification, does not provide any identification of a base element *per se*. It is presumed the Examiner is relying on the feature drawn at the bottom of Figure 3. However, it is unclear how this item of Veyrat is attached to the remainder of the structure of Veyrat. Perhaps recognizing this, the Office Action states that "it would have been an obvious matter of design choice" to couple both and only the adapter and pump assembly to the blade. The Office Action contends that Applicant has not disclosed that the claimed arrangement "provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem."

In this regard, it is noted that the present application describes an improvement over the prior art. In the prior art of pumps, it was common for the motor drive assembly and the pump to both be connected to a common base. Both of these devices have internal shafts which need to be coupled. Unfortunately, aligning the shafts is difficult when each of these devices is attached to a common base, because it is difficult to mount both of them to the base with the desired degree of precision. This is particularly true when changing out a motor from a pump for repair or service. In this regard, the Examiner is respectfully directed to paragraph [0003] of the present specification which describes this prior art situation. Moreover, because of the difficulty in obtaining alignment using the prior art arrangement, flexible couplings were often needed to connect the shafts as described in paragraphs[0004]-[0006] of the present specification.

The present invention overcomes these difficulties with the provision of two features. First of all, a central adapter is provided. Next, the adapter and the pump assembly are connected to the base, while the motor need not be connected to the base since it is aligned by virtue of its connection with the adapter. In fact, connecting the motor to the base is rendered unnecessary. Accordingly, this arrangement does provide advantages as explained in the specification compared to the prior art, which, for example, includes eliminating the need for a flexible coupling, and eliminating the requirement of a manual alignment process and alignment verification steps, as described in paragraphs [0039] and [0040] of the present specification.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that at least in the above-noted portions of the specification, Applicant has noted a particular advantage, purpose and solution to a problem compared to the prior art.

When looked at in view of the benefits that are accomplished by the provision of an adapter and a base mounted as recited in independent claims 6 and 14, it becomes even more

clear that Veyrat does not teach or suggest this solution. In particular, Veyrat notes that the motor and the pump rotor shafts 48 and 51 are joined together and are preferably welded so as to constitute a single shaft (see column 2, lines 40-44). Thus, Veyrat accomplishes aligning of the shafts with welding and not via any interconnection with the base. Moreover, Veyrat is not concerned with disassembly and reassembly and/or realignment since it would be understood that the welded configuration would be permanent. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Veyrat further is not concerned with the problem as recited in the present invention in claims 6 and 14. In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of independent claims 6 and 14 be considered and these claims indicated as allowable.

Dependent Claims

The dependent claims depending from independent claims 6 and 14 are believed allowable at least for the reasons given above and further reciting additional features in their own right. Each of the secondary references to Oehman and Eberhardt have been reviewed, but neither is believed to overcome the deficiencies identified above with respect to the primary reference to Veyrat.

Turning in particular to dependent claim 10 and dependent claim 17, Applicant respectfully makes the further argument that it would not be obvious to modify Veyrat as proposed by the Examiner using features allegedly found in the secondary references. As noted above, and in the portions of the specification identified above, the invention provides the adapter with registration features which allow alignment of the adapter with the motor drive assembly and the pump, respectfully, and hence alignment of their shafts, without the need for complex manual steps. Veyrat as discussed above describes two shafts that are welded together and does not contemplate any realignment. Therefore, nothing in Veyrat suggests combining it

with any registration features that might be present in the secondary references. It is believed that there is no motivation provided by Veyrat whatsoever to attempt such a combination.

New Independent Claim 27

By this amendment, new claim 27 is added. This independent claims recites features of some embodiments of the invention. For example, this claim recites that the motor/drive assembly has a hollow output gear, and that the pump assembly has a projecting input shaft that projects through the adapter and into the hollow portion of the hollow output gear of the motor/drive assembly. It is believed that this feature is neither taught nor suggested in any way by Veyrat, which describes two shafts being welded together. Moreover, the projection of one shaft into a hollow output gear as recited in claim 27 again provides the advantage of disassembly and reassembly without complex realignment processes. Full and independent consideration of this claim is respectfully requested.

Newly presented claim 27 further recites that the adapter has two faces with respective registration features on each face, to provide registration with the motor drive assembly on one face and the pump assembly on the other face. Once again, it is noted that the primary reference to Veyrat first of all does not teach any registration features, as apparently recognized in the Office Action, and secondly does not suggest any need for any registration features since it describes its shaft as being welded together.

Entry of this Amendment after final rejection is respectfully requested. The previously presented claims are not being amended, but rather reconsideration is being requested of those claims. One claim is newly added, but is believed that consideration of this new claim will not require undue time, effort or burden on the part of the Examiner because the claim contains at least some features in common with the previously presented independent claims.

CONCLUSION

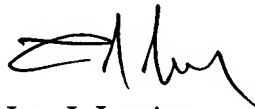
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (202) 861-1696.

Any additional extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP



Leo J. Jennings
Registration No. 32,902

Date: July 23, 2007
Washington Square, Suite 1100
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: 202 861 1500
Fax: 202 861 1783